

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

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# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## "THE HONOURABLE ESTATE" WITH GERALDINE FITZGERALD AT S.G.W.U. MARCH 26

The Honourable Estate, a witty dramatic commentary on love and marriage, produced and directed by John Houseman, will play here on Tuesday, March 26 at 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. in the Hall Building theatre under the auspices of Sir George Williams University's Music and Drama Series.

Geraldine Fitzgerald heads the distinguished New York cast which includes Barbara Barrie, Betty Harford, William Hickey and Dennis Helfend.

This charming theatre piece was first produced by Mr. Houseman for CalTech in December 1966. Cecil Smith of the Los Angeles Times called it: "Exquisite!" Kimmis Hendrick of the Christian Science Monitor reported it to be: "Delicious, provocative, delightfully devastating."

The Honourable Estate is divided into two parts: The first part features selections from Shakespeare (The Taming of the Shrew); Congreve (The Way of the World); Ibsen (A Doll's House); Shaw (Getting Married); Pfeiffer (The Unexpurgated Memoirs of Bernard Mergendeiler); - all comments on love and marriage by the world's greatest playwrights, from the 17th century to the present day. Included also are selections from the letters of Queen Victoria.

The second part of the program consists of Samuel Beckett's masterpiece, Happy Days. This is the first Beckett play to tour professionally in America; it is the first Beckett ever to be premiered in America.

Upon its opening in New York, critics greeted the play with lyrical praise: "Hooray for Happy Days!" wrote Michael Smith in the Theatre Journal; "I urge you to see Happy Days, not just because it is a supreme work of dramatic literature, but for the bounty of pleasure it offers to its audience." "It shimmers with beauty" reported Mr. Taubman of the New York Times. "It will haunt the inner ear long after you have heard it."

As Mr. Houseman has said: "George Bernard Shaw once complained that however much we may all suffer through marriage, most of us think so little about it that we regard it as a fixed part of the order of nature, like gravitation.

"With Honourable Estate we hope to throw some light into this darkness. Through the lives of twelve lively and opinionated ladies we dramatize a dozen divergent but complementary attitudes toward an institution of which it was recently said (by a man) that 'we are in the middle of attempting and bungling one of the craziest experiments imaginable in a civilized society -- basing marriage which is permanence, on love which is a passing fancy'"

Tickets for The Honourable Estate may be secured at the information desk of the Hall Building, Maisonneuve Boulevard and Bishop Street.

From the office of: Malcolm Stone,  
Information Officer